

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LA

SUBJECT: LAO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

REF: VIENTIANE 0577

1. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN CHARGE'S SEEKING AN APPOINTMENT TO RAISE ORALLY THE ISSUE OF INTENSIFIED LAO ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE U.S. CHARGE'S DEMARCHE SHOULD COVER THE POINTS SUGGESTED PARA 6 REFTEL AND MIGHT ALSO DRAW UPON FOLLOWING AS APPROPRIATE.

2. THE U.S., AS BOTH SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT FORD HAVE STATED, LOOKS TO THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE PAST IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES. WE ARE NOT ATTEMPTING TO UNDO THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LAOS OVER THE LAST YEAR. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE NOT ENCOURAGING OR SUPPORTING RESISTANCE ELEMENTS, AND WE ARE NOT URGING ANY COUNTRY TO TAKE ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST LAOS.

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3. AS INDICATED BY OUR STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 6, AT THE

TIME OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF LAOS, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS
WITH THE NEW REGIME IN LAOS ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS FOR THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES.

4. LAO CHARGES THAT THE U.S. IS ATTEMPTING TO UNDER-
MINE THE NEW REGIME ARE UNFOUNDED. THEIR REPETITION
TENDS TO CALL INTO QUESTION THE ASSURANCES WE HAVE HAD
OF LAO INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES
AND SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE.

5. SHOULD THE MINISTRY HAVE ANY SPECIFIC COMPLAINT
ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES OR
ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CHARGES BEING MADE IN LAO
INFORMATION ORGANS, THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
HAVING THEM.

6. IN THE MEANTIME, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
INFORM THE MINISTRY THAT THE REPEATED ACCUSATIONS OF
HOSTILE INTENT AGAINST THE LAO REGIME ARE TOTALLY
UNFOUNDED AND CAN SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE. KISSINGER

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